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House Children and Seniors Committee

*Chairwoman Concannon and Members of the Committee:*

Please accept this written testimony in support of HB 2371. As a longtime advocate for children and current President of the Board of Directors of the Family Resource Center, a current City Commissioner and former sixteen-year member of the Pittsburg Community Schools Board of Education, I wholeheartedly support this bill.

Our community has a history of serving our most vulnerable through public/private partnerships that strengthen families experiencing sustained and intermittent poverty. These collaborations have leveraged all available resources to improve student academic achievement, increase access to health resources and reduce food insecurity. However, families still face barriers to providing a safe and secure environment for their children.

This bill takes away restrictions that keep families from accessing vital services. Not only would the citizens of our community benefit from the changing outlined in this bill, so would our education systems and health care networks. Our community recently went through a comprehensive planning process that yielded a plan entitled *Imagine Pittsburg 2030*. That plan has improving child care access as a major goal. This bill will help us do that.

As the former Mayor and current City Commissioner, I know our city is working hard to move forward and every little positive policy change helps. Please consider this bill as workforce development and an investment in the people of Pittsburg.

Respectfully,

*Dawn McNay*

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